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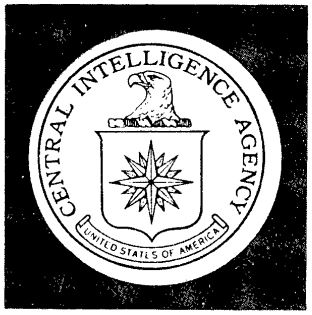

The President's Daily Brief

10 February 1969

(Morning)

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Top Secret

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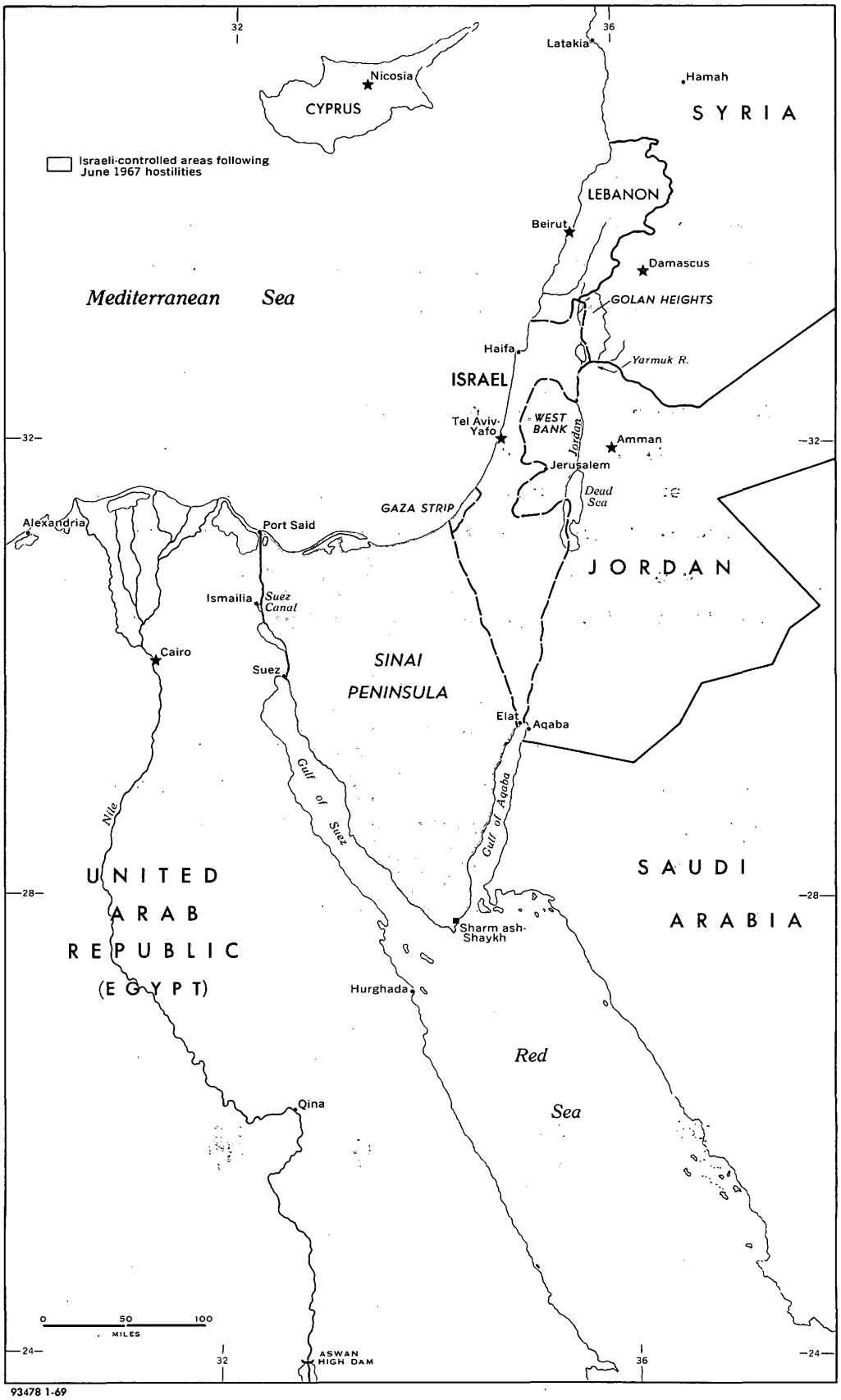

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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

MIDDLE EAST

Israeli officials continue to express their concern [redacted] publicly over an alleged buildup of Arab terrorists in southern Lebanon. [redacted] 50X1 50X1 [redacted] apparently in the hope that their warning of retaliation in the event of terrorist attacks will be passed on to Beirut. 50X1

The Lebanese Government maintains that it is doing its best to block the terrorists coming in from Syria and Jordan. Beirut claims, however, that because of the difficult terrain considerably more forces than are available would be required to round up those on Lebanese soil.

* * *

The Soviets apparently are preparing defenses for the Aswan Dam [redacted] 50X1 [redacted] Some 300 Soviet military engineering corps personnel reportedly arrived in Egypt early in December to work on the fortifications as well as to construct an early warning system on the Red Sea coast. 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

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In early November, the Soviet ambassador was said to have remarked that the Aswan Dam was "the apple of the Soviet eye" and that the Russians meant to protect it even if it meant Soviet personnel had to man the defenses.

EUROPE

The new East German restrictions on the travel of West German officials to West Berlin will have little practical effect on the meeting in the city of the Federal Assembly on 5 March. In effect, the ban means only that participants will have to travel by air, something most of them were probably going to do in any case, since the East Germans can prevent access by land at any time.

The prohibition against the transit of assembly members is about the strongest action the East Germans can take by themselves without incurring the risk of retaliation. We have no indication that the Soviets will sanction East German harassment of flights to West Berlin, although we do believe that yesterday's move was coordinated with the Russians. The announcement of the restrictions probably is intended to set the stage for a massive East German propaganda war of nerves against the Federal Assembly meeting, against the sanctioning of this meeting by the Western Allies, and against alleged "misuse" of air corridors to the city.

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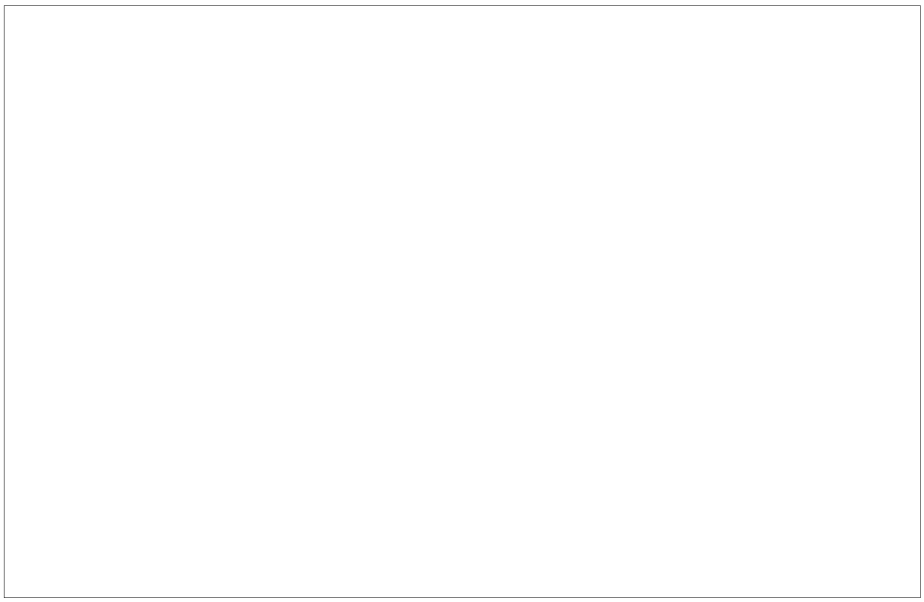

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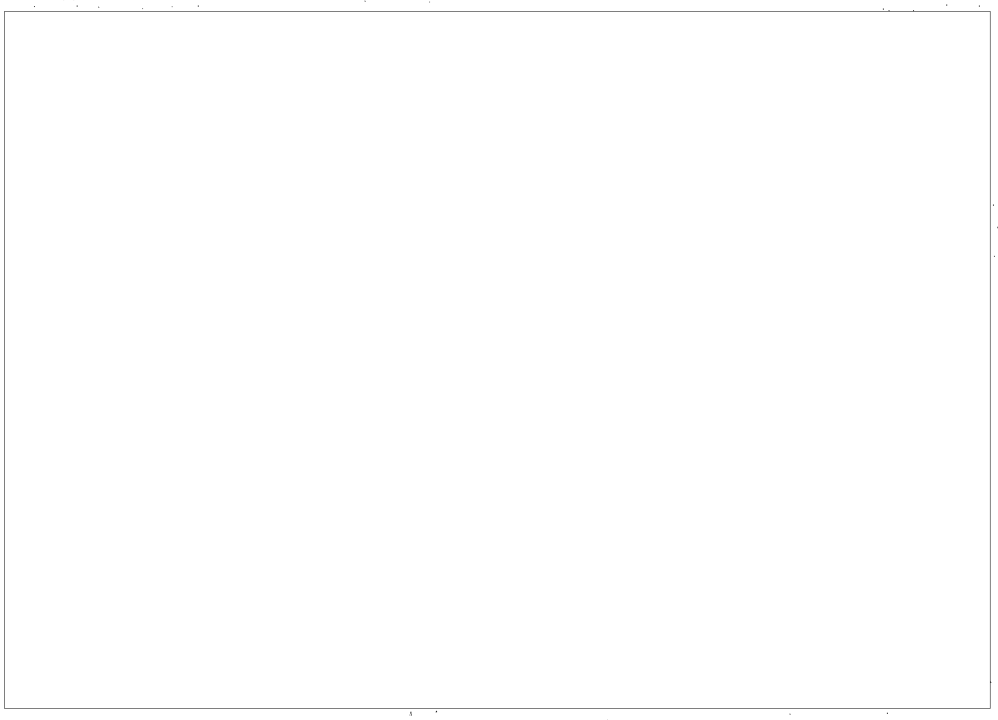
VIETNAM



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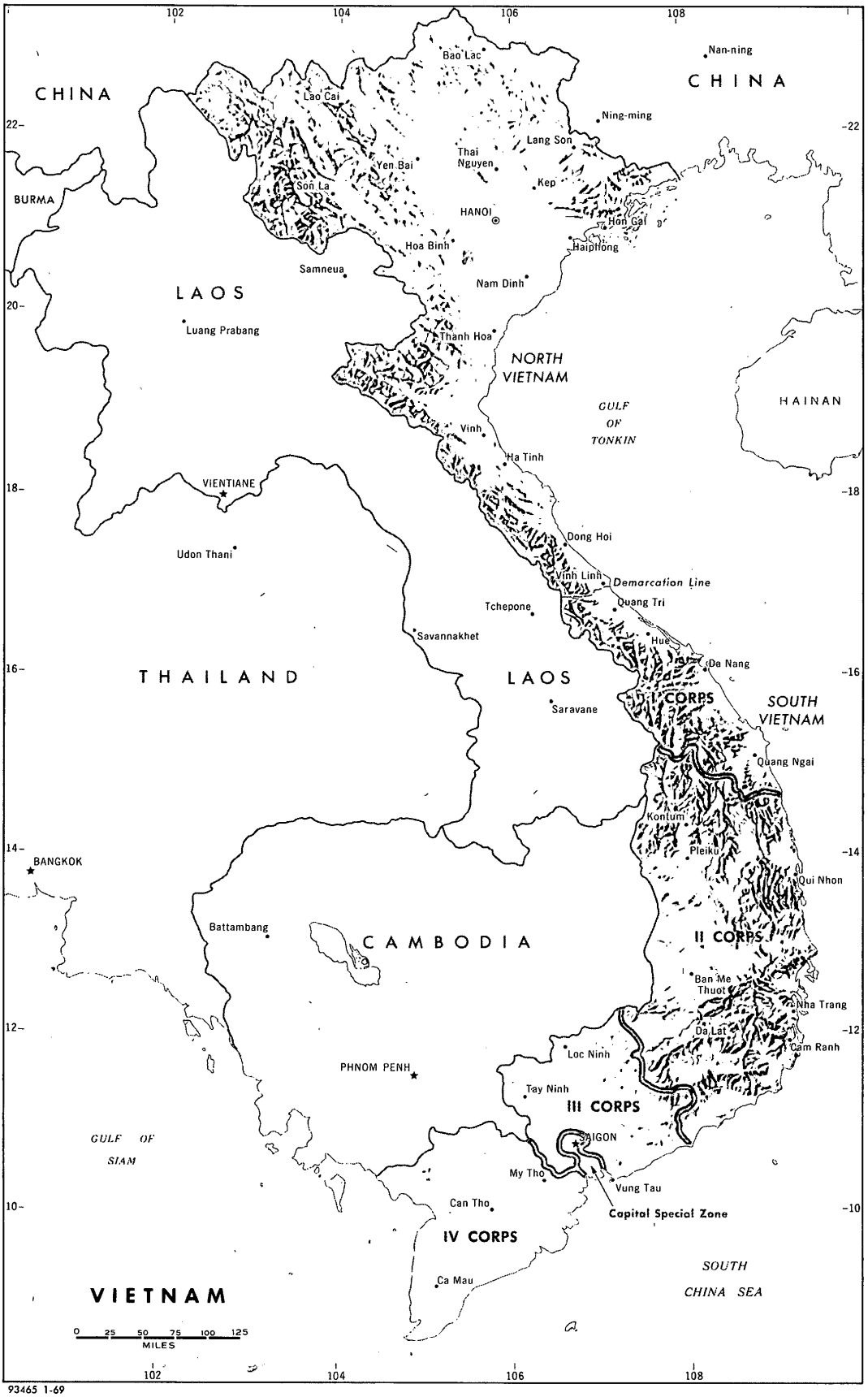

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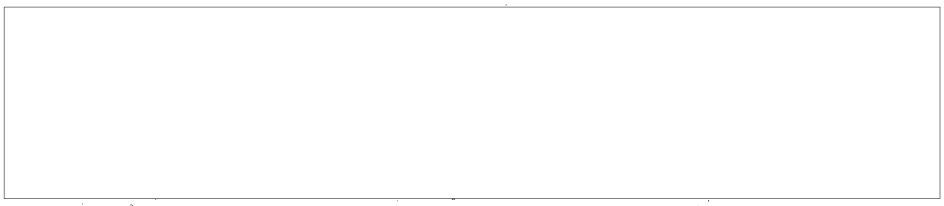
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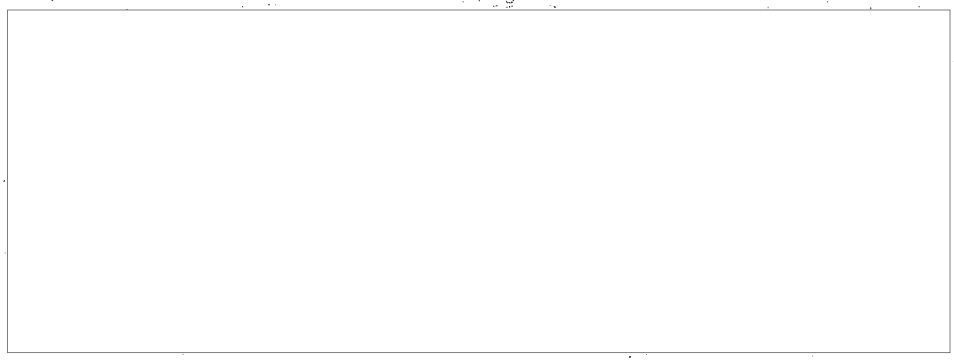
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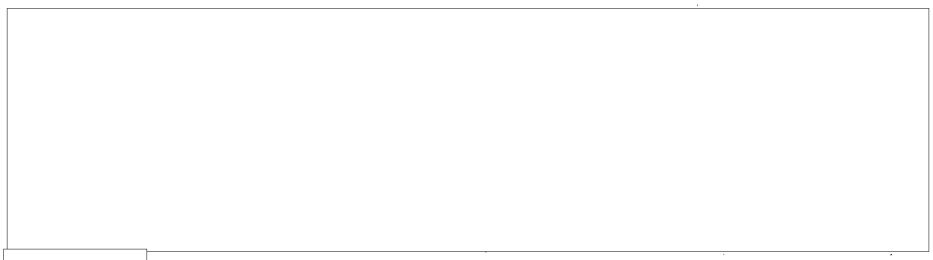

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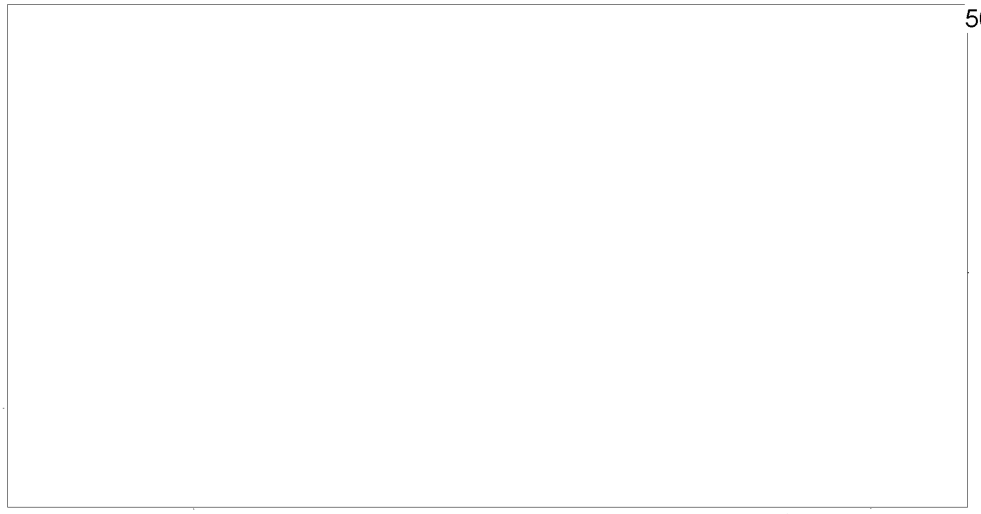

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The ground war fighting remained relatively light over the weekend. Communist activity was highlighted by several terrorist and sapper incidents in Saigon and a number of rocket and mortar attacks on allied positions in various areas of the country.

II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

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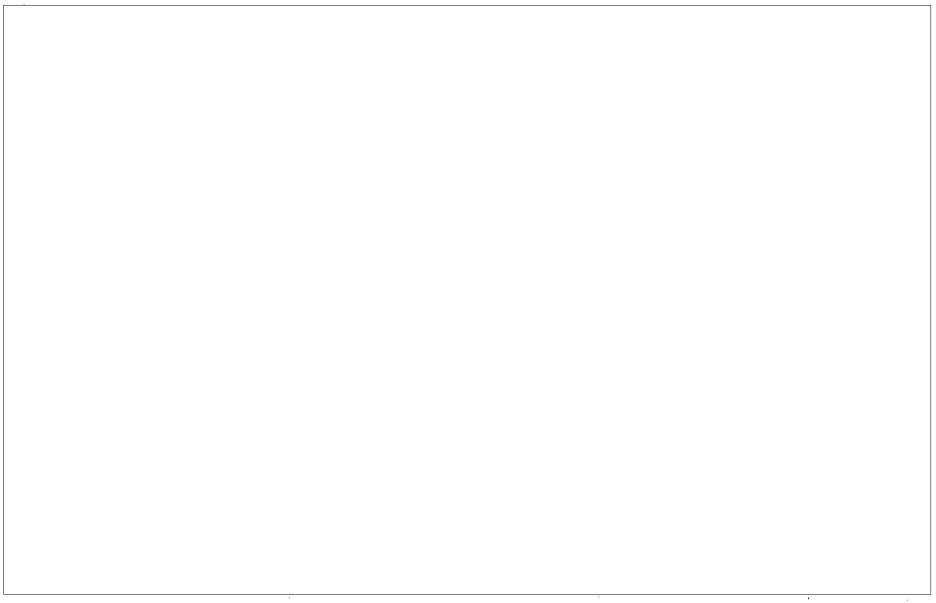
NIGERIA



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